THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, December 21, 1807.

The COMET.

IT made its appearance during a part of the latter end of September, and the whole of the succeeding month. It has been frequently seen very distinctly in the vicinity of the metropolis, nearly as bright as a star of the first magnitude.

The first scientific account of it is contained in the following letter from Bath:

"*Circus, Bath, October* 1, 1807.

"SIR,

"The appearance of the comet having excited much curiosity, a few words on it, however inaccurate, may not be unacceptable. It was first seen here by a gentleman eminent for astronomical knowledge, on Monday, September 28, about eight at night. It seemed then to be near the star in Libra, in about 5 deg. S. declination, and about 218 right ascension. On Wednesday, about the same time, it appeared about 2½ deg. north of the equator, and in about 216½ right ascension; so that it had changed its declination about 7½ deg. and its right ascension about 1½ deg. in that time. The coma, or tail, was about 5 deg. long, and the nucleus very distinct and bright. It probably set about nine, or a little later, and about 3 deg. to the north of the west point. These observations are very inaccurate, but may serve to direct your readers a little where to look for it, as it is perfectly visible to the naked eye."

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But from the Moniteur of October 8, it seems that M. Pons, of the observatory of Marseilles, discovered this comet on the 20th of September; and that from the observations which he and some other astronomers communicated to those

of Paris, M. Burckhardt determined the following orbis, which he presented to the class of mathematical and philosophical sciences of the national institute, on the 5th of this month. Passage to the perihelion, 25th September, 3 A.M. distance of the perihelion, 0,6151; perihelion 291 deg. 4 min. Nucleus, 267 deg. 47 min. inclination 48 deg. 4 min. movement direct. These hints, says M. Burckhardt, will be sufficient to calculate the route of the comet, but it may be discovered without any trouble, being distinguishable by the naked eye, as soon as night has closed. It is now (September 25th) to the left of Arcturus, between the stars of the boreal crown and those of Libra to the west. Its motion is one degree per day towards the north, and rather more than a degree towards the east. This comet was also seen on the 28th, at Vizhoul, and M. Flaugergues perceived it on the 26th, at Viviers. It seemed to him like a white nebulous spot, very brilliant, and similar to a star of the second magnitude. It was surrounded by a nebulosity of about six minutes in diameter, and had a tail about a degree and a half in length. It is the opinion of the institute, that this comet is different from any with which we are acquainted. A letter from Munich, dated October 8, says, "On the 1st instant a comet was observed in the north-west of the horizon; it is large, and rather pale. Its tail appearing directing toward the earth, prevents a correct judgment being formed of its length. Yesterday, at seven o'clock in the evening, that phenomenon again appeared. In the last century three comets were seen, one in 1709, one in 1740, and the other in 1768."

This comet was also seen at Macfarlane Observatory, Glasgow, on the 25th, at seven o'clock P. M. situated to the north-east of the star Beta, in the constellation Hercules, distant from that star 2 deg. 15 min. Its right ascension 247 deg. 30 min,—its declination 22 deg 45 min. north. The following information may not be unacceptable to the young astronomer. It is composed of observations made at the Macfarlane Observatory and elsewhere, and will enable such as have access to a celestial globe, or map of the heavens, to trace the progress of the comet for the last three weeks:

Places seen.	*Day.*	*R. A.*	*Decli.*
At Edinburgh,	Oct. 4.	227°	5.°N
London,	— 6.	229	7.
Macfarlane Observatory,	— 8.	231	9.
Glasgow,	— 9.	232	10.
City of Glasgow,	— 13.	234	15.
London,	— 21.	243	20.
Macfarlane Observatory,	— 23.	245	21.
Ditto ditto	— 25.	247	23.

Another

Another astronomer, who dates from Glasgow, October 30, observed, with respect to the comet, that it appears to have been nearest the earth about the 10th of October, when its apparent diameter equalled that of Jupiter, and its tail stretched nearly four deg. With respect to its real magnitude, nothing can yet be said with certainty, 'till such time as the observations of different astronomers have been digested and compared; it is, however, likely very much inferior to the moon in size, though its coma, or tail, may likely extend 100,000 miles, or even much more.

Mr. Capel Loft, of Troston, near Bury, writing upon this subject, in a letter dated October 19, observes, "The comet now visible, is much the finest of any observable in England for thirty-eight years back. It was first seen on the 30th of September. Its nucleus remains brilliant, and bordering on a gold colour, and that its train, on Tuesday the 6th, was a bright gold colour, near the comet, fading off in a silvery brightness, and terminating in the thinnest white fume. The finest mezzotinto tints would be far from doing it justice. It was perfectly conspicuous to the naked eye on the 6th."

On the 25th of October, Mr. Loft mentioned that a very fine opportunity presented itself for observing the comet, on the preceding Saturday night; tolerable also on the night of the 25th. Yesterday evening, he adds, it appeared in 48 hours to have advanced more than 10 deg. in declination, and about 3 in right ascension. Nucleus very brilliant, and train exceedingly so. Fully 4° in length, about 1° broad, fanning out and incurvated upwards, with a shorter branch extending on the upper side. A fine meteor was visible in the field of the telescope, on Saturday, with the comet for a second or two.

This night it appears nearly stationary in N. declination, and retrogade in right ascension. It seems by these and all circumstances, to be turning round in its orbit, and to be passing its perihelion. Position: Sunday night, 25th of October, W. of Hercules, and above it about 1°.

It was also observed on the 26th of October, about half past six in the evening, by a capital instrument, in the hands of a very able astronomer, to whom the tail appeared evidently curved, from which he inferred it was then in the perihelion.

It has since become barely visible to the naked eye, but by the aid of telescopes it may be seen very distinctly. The position in which to find it, is in the direction of west and by north, a little above the horizon, from a quarter past seven 'till half past nine P.M.

In fine, since the comet has been observed in this country, to the 10th instant, it has described an arch in the heavens of 61 deg. nearly in a right line betwixt the stars in the right foot of Virgo, and Alpha in Lyra. It appears now to be receding

very rapidly from the earth, as is evident from the decrease of its diameter within a few days; it scarcely exceeding the apparent size of a star of the fourth magnitude, and the tail which was formerly very conspicuous, is now scarcely visible to the eye.

November 10.

THE LETTER-BOX.

No. 15.

To the Editor.

THE following circumstance may not be unworthy a corner of your Letter-Box. A fanciful imagination might easily give it many fine touches of the *pathetic*, but as sterling truth is generally preferred to the tinselled trappings of fiction, I hope, by confining myself to the simple fact, to render it more interesting to your readers.

At the late dreadful wreck of a transport on the southern coast of Cornwall, when, unfortunately, upwards of forty-six of the crew fell victims to the fury of the elements, a poor countryman perceiving a bag thrown in by the waves, laid hold of it, and retired to another part of the shore to examine its contents; but judge of his surprise on opening it, when (instead of finding, as he expected, a cargo of *sea-soaked biscuits*, or a savoury supply of *salt junk*) he beheld a *beautiful infant*, apparently dead. Humanity (the characteristic of every genuine Cornishman) stimulated the poor fellow to action; he immediately rolled the pretty babe on the sand, which produced a copious discharge of salt-water, and in a few minutes the little sufferer, opening his eyes, gave his preserver a smile of the most ineffable sweetness. The countryman, transported with joy at his unexpected success, kissed the recovering babe a thousand times, and carried it to his cottage, with the resolution of bringing it up as one of his own family.

A very humane and bountiful lady, that resided in the neighbourhood, hearing of the circumstance, felt anxious to relieve the poor cottager of his charge, knowing he had already seven or eight children dependent on his industry. For this purpose she ordered him to wait on her, which he did, with the sweet foundling in his arms. The lady informed him of her liberal intention: promising to give the child a good education, and settle him advantageously in life. The man, quite embarrassed, and not knowing how to reply, was for some moments silent. At last, in a very melancholy tone, he candidly confessed his reluctance to part with his little treasure. "A trifling additional

tional labour," he said, "would be requisite to support so small an increase of family; that he was still strong and healthy, thank God, and that he hoped the good lady would not deprive him of so great a pleasure, as he should ever experience in becoming a *father to the fatherless.*" At this critical and truly interesting period the *real father* of the child rushed into the room, and, in an agony of joy, clasped the little innocent in his arms; pouring forth fervent ejaculations of gratitude to Heaven for this unexpected restoration of all that he held most dear.

He proved to be a common soldier, who had lost his wife and eldest child at Monte Video; and *this* was the last, the sole pledge of affection left him. The benevolent lady, knowing what an incumbrance an infant must necessarily be to a poor man in his situation, made the same proposals to him, as she had previously done to the countryman. "What!" exclaimed the soldier with energy. "what! part with my *child,* Madam? no, not for *millions* of money!!!" But alas! not even millions or *tens of millions* could revoke the decree of providence! The tender infant, after suffering severely, *died the next morning!*

X.

MR. EDITOR,

Permit me, through the medium of your Letter-Box, to express my resentment at a set of careless impudent fellows, that not having the fear of God or man before their eyes, render themselves objects of terror to all quiet, sober, and rational people. The geniuses of whom I would speak, are those who, in walking the streets, think proper to swing their arms like the pendulum of a clock; and frequently with such dreadful velocity as to threaten immediate demolition to every unfortunate wight that comes in contact. I have experienced many such calamities in the course of my street-excursions, and therefore speak *feelingly* on the subject. Surely no one can be so ignorant of the elements of common politeness as not to acknowledge the impropriety of such furious gesticulations; besides they make a person look so truly ridiculous, that (when I am out of the reach of danger) I cannot resist a hearty laugh at the expence of their folly. I hope, Mr. Editor, that many of the *guilty* will read this hint attentively, and regulate their actions accordingly; otherwise I shall endeavour to get an act passed for the security of our persons, by *pinioning* all such delinquents, previous to their commencing any future pedestrious perambulations.

Your's faithfully,

VERITAS.

X.

'Squire

'Squire Tallihoe having publicly expressed his utter contempt of Madam *Virtue*, in the presence of a *bard* of some respectability, as a writer in her cause; the said bard doth beg submission to give the said esquire a rap over the knuckles, in the following fable, which he hath attempted in verse, for the very purpose.

A dapper cock (as gay and witty,
As many a spark in London city)
In company with two young pullets,
Politely wish'd to cram their gullets,
Like a fierce grenadier he strides,
And scrapes the dunghill's smoaking sides,
When, to his cockship's great surprise,
A jewel (like my Anna's eyes)
Popp'd full in view! The tawdry beau
Knew, or pretended well to know
Its name; but with contemptuous sneer,
Wonder'd how such *vile trash* came there.
One single grain of corn (he swore)
Was worth a hundred such—and more.
Blockheads, uncharmed by wisdom's lore,
Just knowing "two and two" make "four;"
To virtue as to knowledge blind,
In *neither* can a beauty find;
But know, ye fair, that fondly rove
Thro' the sweet arcady of love;
And ye that (dead to love's alarms)
In friendship find superior charms;
Know—virtue is the brightest gem,
That shines in *beauty's diadem.*

X.

Particulars of the Liberation of Mrs. Spencer Smith from the French Police, and of her subsequent Flight through Italy, the Tyrol, Styria, Bohemia, Gallicia, Poland, and Livonia.

(Continued from Page 988.)

FROM Prague our noble fugitives proceeded through Silesia, and into Gallicia, to Cracow. On coming to Cracow, says the marquis, its appearance sufficiently proved it to have been formerly the seat of commotion and civil war; its poverty and inactive state were evident, and seemed as if none of its inhabitants considered it their home. In fact the nobles had

all

all emigrated to the neighbouring countries, particularly Vienna; those occupied in the government were Germans, the artificers either Italians or Bohemians; and the rest of its population were mostly Jews, who have no country of their own, nor ever partake in the public concerns of any people among whom they reside. Yet they carry on exclusively all the trade, and support in a manner the political existence of this city, being at once the merchants, manufacturers, and agriculturists. The departure of the nobles and rich proprietors from Cracow, has left the Jews, by means of their money, masters of a wretched people.

The next day, before I left Cracow, I wished to see the famous salt mines of Willitzen. Tied to a rope, I descended into a deep chasm formed in the earth, accompanied by a man with torches, who was to guide me through its dreary horrors.

> Sola sub nocte per umbram;
> Perque domos ditis vacuas, et inania regna.

From time to time I stopped to behold the confused and tottering masses around me, while this terrific abyss was seen vaulted above in hideous contexture, which seemed to threaten with destruction the eye that dared to gaze upon it. I continued to descend 'till I reached the bottom; where, by means of our lights, I perceived a body of water, on which floated a small ill-constructed boat, destined to convey whoever wished to penetrate still farther into the dark recesses. Having finally, by narrow passages, arrived at the bottom of these immense excavations, the man that accompanied me gave orders to others who had come with us, to detach a mass of salt from the rocks, that I might see the process and expedition of their operations. A thundering crash attended the shock, and resounded awfully throughout the hollow expanse; my senses were forcibly struck at the bellowing noise. I passed three hours in examining these places, which my fancy depicted as the seat of chaos; not considering them as the result of men's thirst after gain, by which nature herself seemed violated and disfigured, and her very bowels torn open. My conductor, being now obliged to return, asked whether I was afraid to climb up a rock there by means of pieces of wood for the purpose of arriving the sooner at the spot where I was again to be bound to the rope by which I had first descended. Though much fatigued, I willingly undertook this new road.

On reaching the top of the cliff (which was no very agreeable task), and casting my eyes on the space beneath, I was astonished at the awful prospect, where a gaping abyss of the blackest darkness seemed ready to snatch me into eternal oblivion.

vion. I hastened from the dreadful aperture, pursuing my ascent with all the expedition of some unfortunate being who flies from a dungeon into which tyranny had plunged him. I thought I heard a human voice behind me, and that I perceived the shade of some departed soul; but these illusions, occasioned by the dismal objects that surrounded me, were dissipated when, by the assistance of the rope, I was again hoisted to the light of day.

Cracow owes the principal source of its traffic to these mines. Above a thousand persons are employed in working them, and the produce is estimated at about two millions of florins annually. On returning to the city, I was obliged to depart immediately with Mrs. Smith's children for Bresk, a place situated on the frontier of Polish Russia.

The contrast between the fertile quality of the soil, and its barrenness, arising from a want of cultivation, was a melancholy proof of the wretchedness of those countries. It was a distressing sight to perceive immense tracts of the finest land quite deserted; countries capable of becoming agreeable to the traveller, rendered insupportable to him and painful, by being destitute of even the necessaries of life. Often was I obliged to intreat the avaricious and ragged Jew for a night's repose in a miserable hovel, and pay for it at an exorbitant rate. I was as frequently under the necessity of waiting for post-horses in the open country, which seldom arrived 'till I had more than once repeated my solicitations to the people, who spoke a sort of Illiric dialect, mixed with a few words of Latin.

The marquis and the lady continued their flight towards Prussian Poland, and arrived at Bresk, where Mrs. Smith assumed the name of Miller. This place, says he, made me imagine myself in an ancient city of the land of Israel. Three thousand Jews composed almost its whole population, and a few Russians administer justice, and occupy the civil employments. Whoever knows the character of the Jews, will easily conceive what monopoly prevails in this unhappy country, where the law is wholly under pecuniary influence, where power is purchased, and the magistrates and keepers of the customs follow no other rule in granting or denying whatever is required of them, than a consideration of the presents made to them. The Jews, however, are necessary to the support of the country, considering its actual state; and one day when the governor informed me that their banishment was in contemplation, I asked who then were to be the inhabitants of that part of Poland, the labourers, the manufacturers, the tradesmen, and, in short, who were to compose the people? adding, that without the introduction of new inhabitants, the whole country would become a complete desert. He agreed that trade, and society itself, arose here from the Jews exclusively.

These people, solely occupied in the means of obtaining money, will never attempt any thing of importance in favour of those whose thirst for conquest might lead them to undertake the revolution of Poland, and whose reliance might be placed on the Jews. Timid and base from their condition and habits, they will never either take up arms against any government, or oppose its measures. In Bresk I fancied the houses alone had endured the effects of levelling democracy; for they were all constructed of wood, and exactly similar, particularly in elevation; nor did I perceive that the dwellings of the rich were more splendid than those of the poor. The nobility, and the marshal (the ancient title of the chief nobleman in every city of Poland,) of the place, lived in the adjacent country.

Prince Wolkonsky sent about to inform the principal people near Bresk of our arrival, for the purpose of procuring us the pleasure of their company. With what politeness and attention were we treated by the Polish gentry, from the instant they heard of our being there! They wished us to enjoy that hospitality of which our situation had so long deprived us in every other place; and as they understood that this was the first city where we had found ourselves in safety, they resolved to show us how well they knew how to receive the fugitive, and make us forget our recent troubles.

Eight days elapsed without passports from Grodno appearing, but we could not leave Bresk without them. I endeavoured in the mean time to gain information relative to the opinion of the few inhabitants who were not Jews. I was unable to discover any national character. Two classes only were to be found; one of the nobles extremely rich, the other of wretched slaves. The latter are so little susceptible of patriotic sentiments, that they are even ignorant of what the word *government* means; to obey the commands of their superiors, is all they aim at. Among the nobles, one seemed partial to Austria, another to Prussia, and a third to Russia; but hardly any to France. The Count Magesca said, in the senatorial emphasis of an ancient Roman, "Of the Poles the name only survives, we are no longer a nation." I answered, "You were in a state of perpetual discord, which is not the case now that you belong to a government." It was not possible, however, to persuade either him or any other Pole that such was the truth, while the Prince Wolkonsky governed, and other Russian generals commanded them.

In society, the Polish ladies and the men also pointed at the uncouth behaviour of the Russians, and complained of being under the yoke of such a rude and uncivilized people. The condition, however, of the nobles is generally respected by the emperor, and the language, as well as the national prejudices, seemed to resemble those of the Russians.

It was at Bresk, in General Dimodoff's house, that I first heard the chorus of Russian soldiers. I listened with amazement to this perfect union of harmony, which might very justly have been taken for the production of consummate skill in music. It consisted of a continuation of melodious passages, in a sort of inverse modulation of the different voices; the dissonances, by which they apparently commenced, were resolved by the profoundest art. I thought I might compare it to the melody of ancient Greece, mentioned by Anacharsis and Polixenes; and I was convinced, that were the climate of both equally mild, the Russians would eclipse the Italians in music.

The Poles have also a taste for singing, which is generally of the sentimental kind. Their canzones always express the sorrows of unhappy lovers; thus differing from those of the Germans, who prefer the martial notes of a soldier, or the ungrateful shrieks of a fiend; or the Italians, who choose warbling heroes and gods; and of the French, who admire the plaintive song of innocence, or the obstreperous bawlings of low life. Pastorals please the Russians.

Education is in general highly refined in Poland, nor is the cordial reception offered to the stranger one of the least convincing proofs of the truth of this assertion.

After a stay of seventeen days at Bresk we departed; and it was then that the children for the first time were permitted to travel with their mother, a satisfaction which they continued to enjoy 'till we reached London. I was obliged to perform the same journey, finding myself deprived of any place of security, except England or Russia. As my intention was to go to Sicily, no way was open to me but the Baltic and the ocean. I was far from my relatives, nor was it in my power to inform them of my situation; but though I left them, was it not for the purpose of liberating an unhappy captive and two infants from unmerited imprisonment? Italy and Germany were shut against me, as I had reason to apprehend the most serious punishment if I were to return to either. My fate, however, far from seeming cruel, coincided perfectly with my inclination. Nor did necessity ever appear so congenial to me as on this occasion!

(To be concluded in our next.)

BISHOP *of* EXETER's SERMON.

To the Printer,

Sir,

PASSING through this city towards the metropolis, accident introduced me to a company of gentlemen who were commenting

commenting on a sermon that had been recently preached by the lord bishop of this diocese, the subject of which was benevolence; without repeating the high encomiums which it received, suffer me to say that the practical beneficence of his lordship had frequently reached me in one of the remotest corners of the kingdom; how then could my heart forbear joining in the general eulogy? how could I forbear pronouncing his lordship what he truly is?

"Vir prope divinus, et vere magnus, siquid magni habent,
pietas, probitas, fides, summa eruditio,
par benevolentia,
mores sanctissimi undequaque, et suavissimi."

The ideas of one of the party I endeavoured to turn into verse, and as gratitude is a sentiment inseparable from liberal minds, your readers, of that description, will, perhaps, pardon even this humble effort to evince it from

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

VIATOR.

Exeter, December 10, 1807.

HOW sweetly eloquent those accents flow
Which plead compassion for a brother's woe!
The plaintive periods sink into the heart,
Prompt the kind hand its bounty to impart,
Thence to the head their soft contagion flies,
Dissolv'd in tears, it gushes from the eyes;
Head, heart, and hand this grateful truth confess,
That blessing others, is ourselves to bless,
And that to mitigate affliction's rod,
Approximates e'en mortals to their God.
Yes, while he taught, I saw his precepts strike
The tender and the callous heart alike;
An ever gen'rous fund Benvolio drew,
Forth from its bounds the pious largess flew,
Ev'n Lovegold rose—whose riches are a curse,
And felt, or rather fumbled for his purse;
His purse, which pity ne'er induc'd to roam,
Lovegold, most prudently, had left at home,
Else to augment an orphan's scanty bread,
One mildew'd farthing must that day have sped.
Whence these effects? his practice also teaches,
The ample charity which PELHAM preaches.

Characteristic Description of Mr. Thady Conolan, an Irish Schoolmaster.

[From Owenson's Patriotic Sketches of Ireland.]

MY rambles and frequent conversations with the peasantry in the neighbourhood of L—— house, have obtained me a degree of rustic notoriety, to which I stand indebted for a visit from Mr. Thady O'Conolan, a schoolmaster in the neighbourhood, and a personage not only highly esteemed by his rural disciples, but looked up to by his less intelligent neighbours, as a prodigy of learning, erudition, and genius. He introduced himself, by saying, "he had heard I was fond of Irish composition, and that he had waited on me to mention he had some of the poems of Ossian, which were much at my service. The Irish" he added with a brogue that beggars all conception, "the Irish is the finest and loftiest tongue in the world: the English can never come near it, and the Greek alone is worthy of being compared to it." He then, with great enthusiasm, repeated the description of Fion's shield, in Irish, and Homer's description of that of Achilles, giving (with great exultation) the preference to the former; as he did to Ossian's account of his father's hounds, over the dogs of Ovid: and then with the utmost gravity declared his intention of translating the Eneid, and some of Terence's plays, into Irish. "The latter," he continued, "I will teach to my scholars, who may play it yet upon one of the great London stages to admiration."

When I complimented him on the extent of his erudition, and expressed my astonishment at his having acquired it in so remote a situation, he replied: "Young lady, I went far and near for it, as many a poor scholar did before me: for I could construe Homer before I ever put on shoe or stocking, aye, or a hat either, which, to be sure, I never did 'till I was twenty years of age." He then, at my request, gave me a sketch of his peripatetic studies. When he was a young man (he said) there were but few schools in Connaught, and those few but bad: and that it was not unusual for eight or ten boys "who had the love of learning strong upon them," to set off barefooted and bareheaded to Munster, where the best schools were then held; that they commenced their philosophic pilgrimage poor and friendless; but that they begged their way, and that the name of *poor scholar* procured them every where friends and subsistence: that having heard much of the celebrity of a school-master, in the county of Clare, he and his adventurous companions directed their steps towards his seminary; "but," added Thady, "it being a grazing country, and of course no hospitality to be found there (meaning that it was thinly inhabited),

bited), we could not get a spot to shelter our heads in the neighbourhood of the school; so being a tight set of Connaught boys, able and strong, we carried off the school-master one fine night, and never stopped 'till we landed him on the other side of the Shannon, when a priest gave us a chapel-house, and so we got learning and hospitality to boot, and the school-master made a great fortune in time, all Connaught flocking to him, and now here I am at the head of a fine seminary myself." He then informed me that he had fifty pupils; that the head class were in Homer, and did not pay for their tuition, as they assisted him to teach the rest; that all boys of the name of O'Conolan were also taught gratis, and the rest paid according to the means of their parents, from one shilling to four a quarter: he added that he had then five female eleves, " to whom, (said he) I am teaching philosophy, the humanities and mathematics, to give them a genteel idea of becoming tutoresses in gentlemen's families." After some further conversation, Mr. Thaddy O'Conolan departed, but not without a promise of our visiting his academy the following day.

The lyceum of this Connaught sage, is a miserable cabin on the side of a very desolate wood. The sound of our horses' feet brought a number of his young disciples to the door, clad in a drapery light and frugal as philosophy herself could dictate; for neither the Greek sandal, the Roman perones, nor the Irish brogue, secured their naked feet from the damp earthen floor of the academy. The next moment Thady himself appeared in all the majesty of pedagogue power: his hair, dress, and manner, were all admirable, and left the Lingo and O'Sullivan of O'Keefe far behind; his low clumy figure, clerical tonsure, rubicund face; his wrapping coat, according to the old Irish costume, fastened with a skewer, the sleeves unoccupied, and the collar of his shirt thrown open; combined with his Greek and Latin quotations, his rich brogue, and affected dignity, to render him a finished character.

Having reprimanded his pupils for their want of good manners, he welcomed us with a look and air that seemed to convince us, as well as them, that their dereliction from decorum proceeded not from any deficiency of precept or example on the part of their master. He then apologised for the absence of his first class, who, he said, he intended should have construed some of Homer for us; but that they had gone to cut turf for a poor distressed family in the neighbourhood, and that for that day the Trojan plains were resigned for the bog. " It was but the other day (said he) they built up that cabin yonder, for a poor old widow, and I gave them a holiday for it, and my blessing into the bargain."

The interior of Thady's cabin perfectly corresponded with its external aspect. It was divided into two apartments, which boasted

boasted no other furniture than an old deal table covered with copy-books and slates, and a few boards placed on stones, which served as seats to the young students, some of whom were poring over the "Seven Wise Masters of Greece;" others, vainly held a Cordery, while their eyes were fixed on the visitors; and three tall fellows were endeavouring to read all at the same time out of an old tattered volume of Virgil. "There (said Thady pointing to the inward room), there is my *sanctum sanctorum:* there I teach Homer, philosophy, and the mathematics:" and taking down an old book, (which had sympathized in the destiny of Virgil) he exclaimed: "This is the only Homer I have; and though seven boys read out of it daily, it never causes a moment's dispute: whereas, if I had two young gentlemen studying in it, my Homer would be a bone of contention to them from morning 'till night." Indeed Thady endeavoured continually to impress us with an idea of the subordination and civilized manners of his scholars, and we saw nothing that in the least degree contradicted his assertions; he assured us that the labourer who earned but sixpence a day, would sooner live upon potatoes and salt, than refuse a little learning to his child. "I have," said he, "above twenty boys who are come from distant parts to me, who begged their way, and who are now maintained among the poor of the neighbourhood, who, far from considering them a burthen, were so eager to have them, that to avoid jealousy, I was obliged to have lots drawn for them; the boys indeed are grateful, and make the best returns they can by working early and late for their patrons when not engaged with me." Having procured a holiday for his pupils, we now took leave of Thady; and if to be a school-master, it is "requisite to be more or less than man," as Le Sage declares, Thady certainly conceived himself the former, as he detailed the merits of his seminary, and the classic progress of his disciples.

CURE *of* HYDROPHOBIA.

To the Editor.

As there have been several recent instances of persons, bitten by mad dogs, falling victims to that most dreadful of all maladies, the hydrophobia, the following attested case of successful treatment, performed by the late Dr. Turnbull, may not, at this period, be unacceptable to your readers. The original manuscript of the doctor's is in my possession, and can vouch for its truth.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM TURNBULL.

Warwick-court, Holborn, 9th December, 1807.

The

The CASE *of* ROBERT DIXON.

Robert Dixon, a weaver, of Norham Mains, near Berwick, Northumberland, was bitten by a mad dog, on the 30th of July, 1761, and what is remarkable in this case, was attacked on the same day with pains in the wounds, which the rabid animal made on the outside of his leg, about two inches above his ancle. These pains extended to his knee, and gradually ascended to his thigh; from thence to the stomach, occasioning sickness and great weight and oppression on his chest. These sensations daily increased, and every symptom became more severe, succeeded by violent convulsions, and spasmodic strictures in the throat, which threatened immediate suffocation, particularly so when water was presented to him; these symptoms were accompanied with every other indication of hydrophobia. He was perfectly recovered in the September following, and was living 23 years after the injury was received.

The mode of treatment was as follows:—1st. To the wounded part a caustic was applied, which was kept discharging by blistering, and other stimulating ointments, from the first appearance of the malady 'till some time after the cure. 2. The leg was frequently bathed with warm oil. 3d. A tea-spoonful of the following electuary was administered three or four times a day; Peruvian bark, in powder, two ounces; valerian in powder, one ounce; cinnabar of anatomy, one ounce; musk, half a dram; camphor, one dram; conserve of wormwood, three ounces; syrup of saffron, a sufficient quantity to form an electuary. Opium was also given in large doses, to assuage the irritation and spasms. To the throat was applied a plaister composed of opium, frankincense, camphor, assafœtida, and gum Galbanum. This last remedy seemed to be more effectual than any of the other medicines administered. On the recovery of his speech, he declared that he experienced great relief from this plaister, and that in a short time after it was applied, he felt an agreeable and soothing warmth, which descended from his throat to his leg, in the same course and direction in which the spasmodic strictures ascended, and all the complicated and dreadful symptoms progressively diminished, until a perfect recovery was accomplished.

As this external application to the throat was attended with an unequivocal and happy issue in the most alarming stage of the disease—might it not have prevented this dreadful visitation altogether, had it been had recourse to immediately after the bite was inflicted? It would certainly be recommendable, at least, as a preventive, to give it a trial, particularly as the mouth, throat, and the other organs engaged in deglutition, form the principal seat of the disease; and as this malady, in my opinion, bears a great affinity to nervous affections, the

remedies above detailed still further demand our most serious consideration, especially when their administration have been accompanied with success.

N. B. There are but two well authenticated cases recorded in the annals of British medicine, that have recovered after symptoms of hydrophobia have taken place, viz. in the present case of Robert Dixon, and in the case of Elizabeth Bryant, as published by the late Dr. Nugent, of Bath.

W. T.

Statement of some successful Experiments lately made to obtain a Substitute for Yeast.

By T. A. Knight, Esq.

TO half a pint of ground malt was added one quart of water, nearly at a boiling heat, and the mixture was kept very warm by being placed near a fire during the following hour, that the whole of the saccharine matter in the malt might be extracted. The mixture was then placed to cool, and as soon as it was become something less warm than milk, as it comes from the cow, an ounce of white froth, produced by fermenting cider, (half an ounce of yeast answered the same purpose,) was added and incorporated with it. The vessel or cup which contained it was then placed near the fire, and on the earth during the night, that its contents might retain, as nearly as possible the same temperature as when the yeast was added; and at the end of 24 hours, a very strong fermentation had commenced. The liquor was then separated by straining and pressure from the malt or grains, and added to as much flour as it would moisten sufficiently for its conversion into bread, and it was found to answer the purpose of the best yeast.

A couple of spoonfuls of the froth which first appeared on the fermenting mixture, being incorporated with an ounce of ground malt, were easily dried and preserved, and were found capable of producing fermentation in a second decoction of malt, as well as the best yeast: the grains taken from the fermenting mixture being dried by being spread thinly in a basket in a warm room, and subsequently washed with a part of another decoction, produced the same effect.

As the fermenting liquor, when added to the flour, must not be heated above the temperature of milk from the cow, the mixture will require to be kept somewhat warmer than is necessary when water and yeast is used previously to the bread being conveyed to the oven. The expence of preparing the fermenting liquor will not excee 8d. or 10d. in a bushel of flour, when malt is at 12s. a bushel: much must however de-

pend on the quality of the malt, and the skill with which the process is conducted.

EAST INDIA MINERALOGY.

THE ingenious M. Jouville, the only mineralogist in the island of Ceylon, has transmitted to Dr. De Carro, of Vienna, some observations on its mineralogy. From these it appears, that no gems have been discovered in their matrices, all that he ever saw having been found in currents, and no others ae in that market.

It appears that the king of Candy is averse to permitting Europeans to explore his mountains; and, on the other hand, they are so thickly covered with the vegetation of ages, that no fissures are to be seen by which the mineralogist can be directed. The Candians take no further trouble to search for stones or minerals, than raking for them in the beds of currents after the rainy season.

SPRING-GARDENS.

SPRING-GARDEN, and the Mulberry-garden, are mentioned as places of intrigue in Sir George Etherege's comedy of "She Would if She Could;" and in a comedy of Sir Charles Sedley's, intitled, "The Mulberry Garden," the scene is in the Mulberry-garden, near St. James's.

At the time when the above were places of public resort, there was an edifice built of timber, and divided into sundry rooms, with a platform and balustrade at top, which floated on the Thames above London Bridge, and was called The Folly. A view of it, anchored opposite Somerset-House, is given in Strype's Stowe; and the humours of it are described by Ward in his London Spy. At first it was resorted to for refreshment by persons of fashion; and Queen Mary, with some of her courtiers, had once the curiosity to visit it; but it sunk into a receptacle for companies of loose and disorderly persons, for the purposes of drinking and promiscuous dancing; and at length becoming scandalous, the building was suffered to decay, and the materials thereof became fire-wood.

A QUESTION, *by W. Nicholls, of Exeter.*

THE outside diameter of an iron shell being 10,6, and the inside diameter 7,2 inches. Required its weight, and what quantity of powder will fill the same?

Answer, by W. D. of Bristol, to the Charade, inserted October 12.

LOOK on your WATCH, my friend, and see
How swift the moments fly!
Before thy MAKER bend thy knee,
For know thy end is nigh.

*** Similar answers have been also received from J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; R. Loosemore, of Tiverton; G. A. F. Arden, and S. D. of South Petherton; R. M. Giffard, S. Paull, J. Horsey, and W. King, of Castle Cary academy; a serjeant of the Broadhembury volunteers; J. Colley, of St. Dominick; J. Lewis, and Hester Easter, of Poole; H. Stoneman, of Exeter; J. Woodman, of North Curry; John Whitnell, of Street; G. Spry, of Egg Buckland; G. Coalman, of Broadhempston; P. Codd, of Plymouth; W. T. Dineck, of St. Budeaux; T. Coombe, of St. German's; G. D. O. of Beer; T. Bullock, of St. Columb; J. Vellenowth, near Helston; J. Trood, and W. H. Champion, of Bridgewater; J. R. S of Awliscombe; and W. Cave, of Pitney.

Answer, by J. A. Dyer, of Taunton, to Quill's Charade, inserted October 26.

THERE's not a doubt, Sir, to be made,
But SUNDAY answers your charade.

§‡§ A similar answer has been received from G. A. F. Arden, and S. D. of South Petherton; W. D. of Bristol; T. Gill, an officer of excise near Wells; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; J. Whitnell, of Street; an officer of customs; and J. Woodman, of North Curry.

A CHARADE, *by R. Loosemore, of Tiverton.*

A Numeral will my first explain;
My next is found in winter's reign;
Connect these simple parts, and then
You'll find what ruins many men.

A REBUS, *by J. Trood, of Bridgewater.*

FIRST find what's fix'd as lover's hearts,
And as the clock each hour imparts;
A pronoun, gents. you next will find,
A negative pray call to mind;
Part of a fruit you'll next select;
And then my whole you will detect:
Find the parts, and join them true,
A foreign city you will view.

A REBUS, *by G. Spry, of Egg Buckland.*

AN ancient king in battle slain;
An ancient priest if you explain;
An ancient city deign to find;
An ancient island bring to mind;
An ancient province make appear;
An ancient prophet in the rear:
These six pray range in order true,
Before your sight you'll have in view,
An ancient city you'll essay,
Which for ages has in ruin lay.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

SIDMOUTH.

SWEET Sidmouth! bless'd with nature's choicest stores,
Where ev'ry beauty decks th' extended shores;
On whose rough rocks and cavern'd clifts among
The night-bird sings her melancholy song;
Whose liquid waves reverberating flow,
With health and lustre animated glow;
Sidmouth! twice bless'd, thee health and pleasure crown,
Health in thy breeze, and pleasure in thy town.
Thy sighing shades shall sooth the tender grief,
And the sad hectic meet a sure relief;
The glowing rage of fever too shall quell,
And tumour's direst ravages repel;
Here second life th' enervate body knows,
And the clear'd blood reanimated flows,
And health and vigour to the frame restore,
And on the sick-worn mind thy comforts pour.

At thy bright shrine great fashion's dames attend,
And august statesmen from their toils unbend;
The first of statesmen, in the list of fame,
Reveres thy shades, and hails thy welcome name;
For here, retir'd from pageant show and strife,
Inhales that breeze that gives him lengthen'd life;
Here at his door as grief's sad victims bend,
They find in him relief, in him a friend;
To ease the care-worn hearts, their tears to quell,
And the wild throbbing of their grief repel,
His hours employ, and with their latest breath
They bless that hand which eas'd the pangs of death;
And here retir'd, in elegance and ease,
Free from the world, and all its bustling ways,
Convivial lives, from idle form unbends,
And smiles a welcome to his numerous friends.
O Sidmouth! you with such a name endu'd,
(A name by all the coast with envy view'd)
Shall take the stamp of fashion for their own,
While G —— deigns to call thee still a home.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

REFLECTION.

DELUSION has a thousand charms
Its treacherous poison to instil;
Leads reason blind, its force disarms,
While conscience sleeps, nor dreams of ill.
The miser clasps his treasur'd wealth,
And trembles with suspicious fears;
While wasting want, and ling'ring health,
Shorten the number of his years.

E'en

E'en deep distress feels deeper woes,
Where sloth has chain'd the active powers:
The torrent spreads, and wider flows,
To nourish weeds with pois'nous flowers.
The rich and gay in honours fair,
Who ne'er aspire for virtuous fame,
Chase empty bubbles thro' the air,
Which die without a passing name.

Plymouth. S. P. Jun.

THE LITTLE CHIMNEY-SWEEPER.

(Founded on Fact.)

WRITTEN BY MR. UPTON.

'TWAS a keen frosty morn, and the snow heavy falling,
When a child of misfortune was thus sadly calling:
"Sweep, sweep, I am cold! and the snow very deep,
"O pray take compassion on poor little sweep!
"Sweep, chimney, sweep."

The tears down his cheeks in large drops were fast rolling,
Unnotic'd, unpity'd, by those by him strolling!
Who frequently warn'd him at distance to keep,
While he cry'd, "Take compassion on poor little sweep!
"Sweep, chimney, sweep."

In vain he implor'd passing strangers for pity,
This smil'd at his plaints, and that banter'd his ditty:
Humanity's offspring as yet lay asleep,
Nor heard the sad wailings of poor little sweep!
"Sweep, chimney, sweep."

At the step of a door, half froze, and dejected,
He sat down, and griev'd, to be shunn'd and neglected;
When a kind-hearted damsel, by chance saw him weep,
And resolv'd to befriend, yes, the poor little sweep!
"Sweep, chimney, sweep."

Unmindful of sneers, to a neighbour's she led him,
Warm'd his limbs by the fire, and tenderly fed him:
And, O what delight did this fair maiden reap,
When she found a lost brother, in poor little sweep!
"Sweep, chimney, sweep."

With rapture she gaz'd on each black sooty feature,
And hugg'd to her bosom, the foul-smelling creature;
Who sav'd by a sister, no longer need creep,
Thro' lanes, courts, and alleys, a poor little sweep!
"Sweep, chimney, sweep!"

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

A THOUGHT ON WAKING.

MY soul arise, let love inspire,
And tune the grateful lay;
Resume thy much neglected lyre,
And hail the opening day.

Adore the sov'reign lord of death,
Whose living grace you know;
Praise him with every tuneful breath,
From whom your mercies flow.

Dock, Devon.